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One dead after Hwy. 219 crash

Police investigate after an 85-year-old woman is killed and two others injured in a two-vehicle collision south of the city PAGE 2

MMA derailed

The railway at the centre of the Lac-Mégantic disaster has its licence to operate in Canada suspended, leaving the company's future in doubt PAGE 6

PLUM GREAT

THROW YOURSELF A PANCAKE PARTY WITH SEASONAL PLUM CREPES AND A DOLLOP OF CARDAMOM-HONEY WHIPPED CREAM PAGE 11

TRUE NORTH STRONG IN RUSSIA

Humboldt's Brianne Theisen Eaton celebrates after winning silver in the heptathlon following the 800-metre race at the World Athletics Championships in the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow on Tuesday. Story, page 13. ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Troubling' audit sent to Mounties

Pamela Wallin scandal. Senate committee also orders expenses repaid, pledges to keep a close eye on senator's future claims in wake of Deloitte report

Partisan Conservative fundraisers, a short hop to catch a flight to the sunny Caribbean and glitzy awards galas are just some of the expenses Sen. Pamela Wallin billed to taxpayers under the guise of Senate business.

The beleaguered Saskatchewan senator now faces the prospect of an RCMP probe as well as paying back more than $82,000 after an audit flagged a host of inappropriate travel claims dating back to her very first days in the upper chamber.

Wallin's ability to travel on the taxpayers' dime will also be restricted for at least the next 12 months, members of the Senate committee that reviewed the audit said Tuesday as they pledged to keep a close eye on her future claims.

"I believe I can speak for my colleagues on both sides when I say that we found aspects of the Deloitte report very troubling," said Liberal Sen. George Furey, one of three senators on a steering committee who reported on the audit.

"We're very conscious of our responsibility as committee members to ensure that all Senate resources are properly allocated."

The former broadcaster has called the audit into her travel claims "fundamentally flawed and unfair," and her attorney has complained to auditing firm Deloitte about constant leaks of confidential information.

"Virtually nothing has happened on this file involving communications from Sen. Wallin or Deloitte to the (Senate) committee which has not in some form or another found its way into the media," lawyer Terrence O'Sullivan wrote.

Wallin's office has yet to respond to a request for comment.

The audit examined every flight Wallin took over 1,369 days between Jan. 1, 2009, and Sept. 30, 2012, between Ottawa and Saskatchewan, the province she represents — many of them with stopovers in Toronto of at least one night.

Deloitte auditors flagged $121,348 in inappropriate expenses and called for further review of nearly $21,000 in additional claims. Wallin has already repaid $38,000, and has since promised to reimburse any disallowed expenses — with interest — out of her own pocket.

The auditors also determined that $390,182 of the $532,508 claimed by Wallin for travel was appropriate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paranoia or legit concern?

Totally legit. A spycam seller talks about tiny eyes in disguise ... PAGE 5
While films glamorize corporate spies PAGE 8

Ride out the summer, coaster to coaster

Check out our list of thrilling amusement-park rides PAGE 10

Plutonium power pros and cons

On the one hand, with that half life you can't beat the mileage; on the other, it has a tendency to attract nefarious international super-villain types PAGE 14

Fatal collision leaves one dead, two injured

Highway 219. RCMP investigating Tuesday morning accident; no foul play suspected

JACOB MORGAN
jacob.morgan@metronews.ca

An 85-year-old woman is dead after two vehicles collided at 11 a.m. on Tuesday near the intersection of Highway 219 and Grasswood Road, south of Saskatoon.

Acting Cpl. Trenton Entwistle of the RCMP was at the site to reconstruct the scene of the accident.

He confirmed that a Hyundai SUV was travelling southbound and a Volvo station wagon was travelling westbound when the crash happened.

"We're here analyzing the scene right now and when we're done the investigation we'll be able to figure out exactly what happened," Entwistle said.

There is no foul play suspected, he added.

Const. Ryan MacLeod said that the 85-year-old-woman was driving the blue Volvo, while the two passengers of the Hyundai are in stable condition at the Royal University Hospital.

The two injured people are a 65-year-old man and a 67-year-old woman.

Traffic in the area was restricted for several hours on Tuesday with no westbound access to Grasswood Road from Highway 219 and no southbound access to Highway 219 from Cartwright Street.

Police officers investigate a crash scene on Tuesday where one person died south of Saskatoon. The woman who was killed was driving the blue Volvo, pictured here. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

Maybe you'll be amazed when McCartney hits Mosaic stage

Coming off a sold-out show at Winnipeg's Investors Group Field on Monday, Sir Paul McCartney will hit the stage at Mosaic Stadium at 8 p.m. for three hours of music. DARCEY FINDLEY/FOR METRO

A knight is in the Queen City and he's ready to rock Mosaic Stadium.

Former Beatle and all-around rock star Sir Paul McCartney will be bringing his Out There Tour to Regina on Wednesday night.

"I think you can expect that since this is going to be the last show on this cycle, they are going to want to go out with a bang," said Paul Haagenson, president of Live Nation Canada.

"This is their first time in Regina and they really set out to create a magical event for people — it's not just one more show."

Astonishing

"There is always a couple of surprises at every show."

Paul Haagenson, president of Live Nation Canada

Doors open at 6 p.m., with McCartney hitting the stage at 8 p.m. sharp until about 11 p.m. Traffic restrictions in the area start at 5 p.m. and free shuttle service from five pickup locations start begin at 5:30 p.m. in 15 minute intervals.

After a big show in Winnipeg on Monday night, the hype around the concert has grown as pictures and tweets from Manitoba creep into our cybersphere — including a set list — but Haagenson says each show is a little different.

"There is always a couple of surprises at every show," he said, "but you have to be there to see them."

ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

'Infinity per cent' better

Friends of the Bowl announce Greg Yuel as chair of $11M fundraising campaign for stadium upgrades

Having played on several local football teams including the Saskatoon Hilltops, Greg Yuel understands the importance of improving the Gordie Howe Bowl.

On Tuesday morning, the Friends of the Bowl Foundation announced that Yuel will be the chair of their campaign to raise $11 million for upgrades on the football stadium.

"In the end, once it is all done, it is going to make things better by infinity per cent," Yuel said.

"We will go from approximately 135 hours a year of available usage on this facility to over 1,600 hours a year of available usage for this facility."

Yuel explained that the first phase of the construction plan will include a new score clock, lights, sound system and benches, as well as an artificial turf.

"They'll be playing on the new field at this time next year," he said.

He added that the Province of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon will provide a portion of the funds, with the rest coming from the private sector.

Ken Cheveldayoff, minister of environment for Saskatchewan and the MLA for the riding of Saskatoon Silver Springs, was present at the announcement. He is also a former Hilltop player.

"The individuals that learn athletics through the Hilltop organization also learn how to be community-minded, so I just can't say enough about the organization," Cheveldayoff said.

The Hilltops are set to begin their 2013 Canadian Junior Football League season at the Gordie Howe Bowl against the Winnipeg Rifles on Sunday at noon.

JACOB MORGAN/METRO

Colleen Ransom with a picture of her daughter Emma and the pouch of her ashes. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

Thieves dump out ashes of crash victim

Calgary. Police look to speak with three teenage girls spotted in the neighbourhood

JEREMY NOLAIS
Metro in Calgary

Car prowlers on the hunt for loose change and other valuables have taken something from a grieving Calgary mother that money can't buy.

Colleen Ransom had kept her daughter Emma's ashes in her pickup truck since the 19-year-old student and three friends were killed in a 2009 car crash.

On Aug. 2, several vehicles were broken into on Colleen's street, and someone removed a green pouch with Emma's ashes inside and emptied it onto the rain-soaked street.

Colleen was able to salvage only a few ashes and came forward Tuesday pleading with the public to help police nab the burglars.

"Who would do that?" she said. "Who would take the ashes and dump them.... It's a violation."

Also stolen was a green rain jacket that belonged to Emma.

Police are looking to speak with three girls between the ages of 14 and 17 spotted in the neighbourhood around the time of the break-ins.

"It's hard for me to even imagine suffering the loss of a daughter," said acting Staff Sgt. Lee Stanton. "And now unfortunately our victim has been victimized once again, and we're looking for the public's help to find those responsible."

Neighbour Garrett Smith said most of the neighbours he's spoken to said the thieves took only change out of the vehicles and ignored higher-value electronics.

Colleen, meanwhile, says she may now keep Emma's remaining ashes in her purse.

"(The pain) never goes away, anyway," she said. "She's always there.... I think about her constantly."

Aboriginal Affairs outraged that Sask. chief will see $48,000 payout after molesting girl

Aboriginal Affairs Canada is criticizing severance being paid out to a Saskatchewan First Nation chief convicted of sexually assaulting a teenage girl.

Terry McArthur of the Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation was sentenced last week to nine months in jail after pleading guilty to inappropriately touching a 16-year-old girl.

McArthur has resigned and will be paid for the remainder of his term plus severance —nearly $48,000.

"We strongly urge (the band) council to modify their policies and take back the severance pay," said Erica Meekes, press secretary for Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt, in an email Tuesday.

The band council said in a news release Monday that it has agreed to pay McArthur $47,625.

The terms and conditions outlined in the release said McArthur and his family "have been threatened and attacked if he does not resign immediately."

It also said some of the band members "have viciously slandered" the chief in the media.

"It is now difficult for him to carry out his public duties," said the release.

Word of the severance bothered several organizations.

Revulsion

"Terrance McArthur does not deserve severance pay of any amount, and the idea of severance for a convicted child sex offender is reprehensible."

Erica Meekes, press secretary for Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt

Abby Ulmer, a councillor at the Regina Sexual Assault Centre, said a guilty plea saves the victim from having to testify. But the idea of severance sends a strange message.

"I know that people often would see that as a totally separate issue, that because he was chief he's entitled to severance.... That just, I think, is very confusing to people because it sounds like even after all this has gone on that he gets a large prize."

Colin Craig of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation called the severance "pretty absurd" but not surprising.

He said members of the First Nation are probably upset by the payout, which could come from taxpayers or band-owned businesses.

"We always stress that there's lots of good communities out there where this type of thing isn't happening, but certainly when you hear of someone getting a $47,000 severance payment to go and sit in jail, it just makes no sense whatsoever," Craig said.

McArthur had refused repeated demands from community members to step down as chief after he pleaded guilty in May. He ultimately submitted his resignation on July 30.

McArthur's lawyer has filed an appeal of the sentence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caught red-handed?

Doc accused of stealing drugs from smuggler's gut

Russian police have arrested a surgeon who they say stole some of the heroin he had been called on to extract from the stomach of a suspected drug mule.

Police in the Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk say that after investigators discovered some of the drugs were missing, they searched the surgeon and found a packet containing five grams of heroin hidden in his clothes.

The surgeon, who was not identified, was under the influence of narcotics when he was apprehended, according to the police statement issued Tuesday.

If convicted, the doctor faces up to 15 years in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Still suspects

DNA test can't link Cold Blood killers

DNA testing on the two killers profiled in the Truman Capote book In Cold Blood does not link them to a quadruple homicide in Florida over 50 years ago.

Capt. Jeff Bell of the Sarasota Sheriff's Office said Tuesday that authorities were unable to make a match between the killers, Perry Smith and Richard Hickock, and Christine Walker, who was slain in 1959 in Sarasota with her husband and children.

The family was killed soon after Hickock and Smith murdered a Kansas family.

Authorities said they couldn't match DNA because only partial profiles could be taken from the exhumed bodies, and the crime-scene samples were old and degraded. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toxin 400K times limit

Derailment has blighted area: Tests

Tests conducted by an environmental group suggest last month's Lac-Megantic, Que., train disaster had a devastating impact on water quality and soil.

Extremely high concentrations of carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and arsenic, detected in surface water, have "confirmed the fears" of the Société pour vaincre la pollution, the group said.

A chemical engineering professor at Montreal's Ecole polytechnique says the crude evidence-gathering techniques used undermine the tests' scientific value.

"It's incomplete and the report is alarmist," said Gregory Patience.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cyclist nearly severs spine after hitting electrical-tape trip line

'Took the force of it on my chin.' Bicycling to work quickly turned into a nightmare for father after he collided with booby trap

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Sterling Eyford nearly severed his spine and now has five titanium plates holding his jaw together, all because electrical tape was mysteriously strung across a road in Victoria, B.C.

Eyford, 34, was cycling to work Friday morning when he collided with the tape. He was thrown off his bike and landed on the road.

"I took the whole force of it on my chin," he said.

His jaw shattered in two places. He lost a tooth. He hyperextended his neck. He has minor neurological damage in his hands and arms, and will be eating through a straw for weeks.

"I pushed my spinal cord as far as it could go without being severed," he said. "I feel lucky. It could have been so much worse."

Eyford works as a casual producer for CBC, and says the "stupid prank" will cost him weeks of work and put undue stress on his family.

"I have two little girls at home," he said. "I can't even pick my kids up right now."

According to the Victoria Police Department, the black tape was strung on an angle between two traffic signs on Kings Road. It's not clear why the tape was there, or whether it was an intentional attempt to target cyclists or motorists.

Police are appealing to the public for help identifying possible suspects.

"I hope the whole weight of the law falls on these people," Eyford said.

"But I also want them to realize they did something extremely stupid and extremely violent.

"They attacked me."

Sterling Eyford in 2007. FACEBOOK

Protesters demand 'justice for Sammy, justice for all'

Sarah Yatim, sister of Sammy Yatim, helps lead a march up Yonge Street in Toronto. Hundreds of protesters waving banners and placards spilled into the streets outside the city's police headquarters Tuesday demanding justice for an 18-year-old who died after being shot and Tasered by officers last month. Yatim's mother and sister, along with the families of other police-shooting victims in Ontario, attended the protest, which coincided with a monthly public meeting of Toronto's police services board. "Justice for Sammy, justice for all," chanted protesters, who were blocked from the police headquarters' entrance by officers on bikes. Yatim died on July 26 on an empty streetcar following a police shooting that was captured on several cellphone and security camera videos. TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS; PHOTO: RANDY RISLING/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Iron Dome. Israeli army shoots down rocket near Red Sea resort town

The Israeli military shot down a rocket launched toward a Red Sea resort town near the border with Egypt on Tuesday, the army said.

It was the first time Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system successfully intercepted a rocket attack on the resort of Eilat, the military said. The incident came after days of heightened tension along the Egypt-Israel border.

The army said the rocket was intercepted early Tuesday and that there were no injuries. It didn't provide more details and declined to comment on the origins of the projectile.

An Al-Qaida-inspired group, Ansar Jerusalem, claimed responsibility. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt. Interim president reinforces authority, swears in 20 governors

Egypt's interim president swore in 20 new provincial governors on Tuesday, a move that reinforces the new leadership's authority and removes all Muslim Brotherhood members previously installed in the posts by Mohammed Morsi before his ouster as president.

The shake-up came as supporters of Morsi reinforced their six-week-old sit-ins in the capital and rallied for more protests across the country to demand his reinstatement.

The former Islamist president's Brotherhood group is rejecting talks with the new government, much less participation in the post-Morsi transition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bradley Manning. 'Mental instability' ideally would have blocked deployment

U.S. soldier Bradley Manning's violent outbursts and a photo of himself dressed as a woman ideally should have blocked him from deploying to Iraq, but the Army needed his skills, the soldier's former boss testified Tuesday.

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Paul Adkins testified as a defence witness at the sentencing hearing for the former intelligence analyst convicted of disclosing reams of classified information through WikiLeaks. Manning faces up to 90 years in prison.

Adkins said in April 2010, Manning emailed him a picture of himself in a blond wig and lipstick attached to a letter titled, "My problem."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adam Ostrander, tech manager at Forest City Surplus in London, Ont., displays a pen that's actually a camera. The shades and watch he's wearing can also take your picture. He says spycams are easy to find online. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Don't smile, you're on hidden camera

Inspecting gadget. Spycams can be on glasses, pens, even loose threads

SCOTT TAYLOR
Metro in London, Ont.

A woman runs out of a clothing boutique's change room when she notices a camera recording her from under the door.

A man is arrested after police say he used a hidden camera to secretly take pictures of kids using a public washroom.

They're both cases straight out of police files thanks to large advances in tiny pieces of technology that officers say are a growing concern.

Spycams can be as small as the head of a pin and they're available to anyone, including the London man who allegedly peeped on partially naked children.

A recent visit to Forest City Surplus turned up cameras in a pen, a watch and a pair of sunglasses. Most go for about $39 to $49 and come with a warranty.

Why would you want one?

That's not tech manager Adam Ostrander's business, though he's heard a few explanations over the years.

"Usually, it's parents that want to keep an eye on babysitters, or they're just trying to take care of their property and they don't want big, honking cameras where people can see them," he said.

They're easy to use, too.

"A lot of the time, wireless ones will have an SD card, so all you have to do is pop the card out, and you can play it off of any computer," he said.

While his store sells some of the more common spy cams, Ostrander said, advanced ones — which can look like a dead fly or even a loose thread on a man's tie — aren't hard to find. "Honestly, if you know where to look, pretty much any weirdo can get one," he said.

Quoted

"There are likely more incidents than we know of because they're so hard to detect." Const. Jenna Van Aarsen

London police Const. Jenna Van Aarsen said officers can only act when a complaint is laid. Police aren't exactly overrun with complaints, largely, perhaps, because few people ever notice the cameras.

"For instance, there was a pen taped under a sink in a washroom at one point, so people need to be aware of their surroundings," she advised. "Take a quick look around. If you see a little hole or whatever, it's better to err on the side of caution. Contact the police to have it investigated."

Food safety. Coca-Cola ads to defend artificial sweeteners

Coca-Cola plans to run its first ad defending the safety of artificial sweeteners on Wednesday, a move that comes as the company looks to stem declining sales of diet soda.

The print ad is set to run in USA Today in the Atlanta area, followed by the Atlanta Journal Constitution on Thursday and the Chicago Tribune next week. It says that diet drinks can help people manage their weight and stresses the scientific evidence showing the safety of aspartame, more commonly known under the NutraSweet brand name.

The ad represents the next phase of a campaign Coca-Cola Co. launched in January to push back at critics who blame its sugary drinks for spiking obesity rates.

The first wave of ads outlined the company's commitment to fighting obesity and pointed to the many diet options it offers.

Now Coca-Cola is trying to reassure people that those lower-calorie drinks aren't harmful. "Coke is trying to get out front and proactively defend these diet sweeteners," said John Sicher, editor of Beverage Digest.

Sales of diet sodas are falling at a faster rate than regular sodas in the U.S., according to Beverage Digest. The declines come even though the U.S. Food and Drug Administration says aspartame may be safely used in foods as a sweetener. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 96.68¢ (-0.38¢)

TSX 12,642.19 (+47.92)

OIL $106.83 US (+72¢)

GOLD $1,320.50 US (-$13.70)

Natural gas: $3.30 US (-1¢)
Dow Jones: 15,451.01 (+31.33)

Railway in Quebec tragedy has its licence suspended

Montreal. Federal regulator made call after reviewing MMA's liability insurance

An engineer checks the engine of a Montreal, Maine & Atlantic locomotive on July 11 outside the company's offices in the town of Farnham, Que. The Canadian Transportation Agency announced Tuesday that it's revoking the certificate of fitness for the embattled railway company. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The railway at the centre of the Lac-Mégantic, Que., train disaster will have its operating licence suspended in Canada, a severe blow to an already crippled company.

The Canadian Transportation Agency announced Tuesday that it's revoking the certificates of fitness for the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway Ltd. and its Canadian subsidiary, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Canada Co.

The arm's-length federal regulator says it made the decision after reviewing the railway's third-party liability insurance following the fiery July 6 derailment that killed 47 people and wiped out part of downtown Lac-Mégantic.

"We have concluded that (the coverage) is not adequate, thereby we have no choice but to suspend their certificate of fitness," said agency spokeswoman Jacqueline Bannister. "We have given them until Aug. 20 to conclude their railway activities in Canada."

The agency said it had advised the railway that it must maintain at least the same amount of third-party liability coverage it had before the derailment. But it said MMA's insurance broker indicated the aggregate coverage had been cut in half since the derailment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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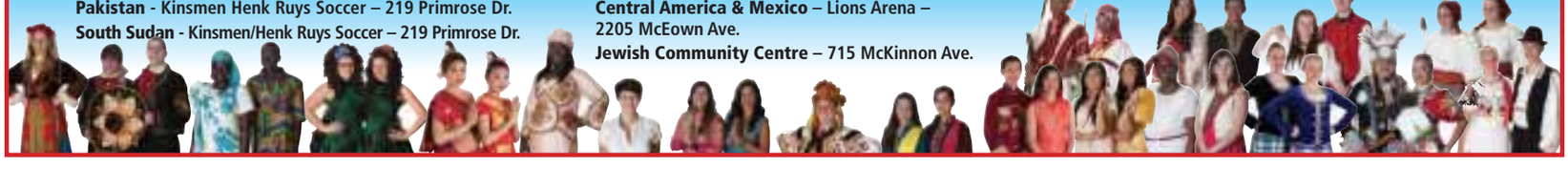
Pakistan - Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer – 219 Primrose Dr.
South Sudan - Kinsmen/Henk Ruys Soccer – 219 Primrose Dr.
ROUTE 23
Hungarian - St. Joseph Hall – Broadway Ave. & 8th
Chinese – Aden Bowman Collegiate – 1904 Clarence Ave.
Francophone – Ecole Canadienne Francaise – 2410 Woodward Ave.
India - Walter Murray Collegiate – 1905 Preston Ave.
Irish – Nutana Curling Rink – 2002 Arlington Ave.
Central America & Mexico – Lions Arena – 2205 McEown Ave.
Jewish Community Centre – 715 McKinnon Ave.
ROUTE 24
German Canadian Concordia Club – 160 Cartwright St
Ukrainian - Prairieland Exhibition Hall – D – Ruth Street W.
Philippine - Prairieland Exhibition Hall – C– Ruth Street W.
Caribbean - Prairieland Exhibition Hall – B– Ruth Street W.
Scottish – Prairieland Exhibition Hall – A– Ruth Street W.
Greek - Prairieland Exhibition Hall – E – Ruth Street W.



HYPERLOOP CREATOR HAS CREDIBILITY

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

How cool is this:

A transport system that gets people from San Francisco to Los Angeles in half an hour using currently available technology?

It's called Hyperloop, the latest crazy plan from Elon Musk, the visionary who has so far given the world PayPal, the Tesla electric car and SpaceX, the world's only private space program.

Hyperloop is a solar-powered, lightweight, pneumatic system that proposes to move people and cars from one destination to another at 1,000 km/h. The tubes would follow California's I-5 and, unlike the rapid-rail system now in the planning process, farmers would still be able to plant their crops under the columns.

Any way you look at it — cost, speed, efficiency, access, land use — Musk's estimated $10-billion bright idea compares favourably to the now-planned $70-billion-to-$100-billion train that would poke along at about 320 kilometres an hour.

So why is everyone dumping all over it? Typical of the expert opinion on Hyperloop is Richard White, a professor of American history at Stanford and author of Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of Modern America.

"It doesn't seem plausible to me," he told The New York Times. "I'm suspicious about everything, especially cost."

I'm not sure what Richard White thought when Musk announced SpaceX in 2002, but I don't think there was anyone who really believed it would be the first privately held company to take cargo to the International Space Station a mere 10 years later.

Elon Musk has visionary cred. While the tenured professors of negativity mutter in their beards, Elon Musk is busy designing the future. Along with a few others such as the recently departed Steve Jobs, Google's Sergey Brin and tech-genius emeritus Bill Gates.

Not everything these guys dream up works. Landfills are littered with Newton PDAs and Vista software bundles, and Google seems to shut down as many services as it launches, but look at what they've brought to the table. Modern wonders of the world:

- A place where you can go and ask any question about anything and get a million answers.
- Programs that allow you to write, calculate, communicate, design, create and connect, all from your lap.
- Small devices that fit into your pocket that allow you to store, organize and access as many beautiful words, pictures and melodies as you can stand.

Not to mention a rocket-ship company that has single-handedly saved the International Space Station, our seed pod to the stars.

Sadly, for every Elon Musk, there are 100 Richard Whites. Eminent, expert and enervating. People who can tell you how it won't work. Prophets of failure.

We need more Elon Musks, people who look at grinding challenges such as gridlock and climate change and see opportunity. More than that: They see excitement. Their eyes sparkle.

It's like corny old Buzz Lightyear likes to say: To infinity and beyond!

Why would we want to go anywhere else?

ZOOM

Rustic rock villa meets urban upset

IMAGINECHINA/REX FEATURES

One castle in the sky not wanted

A mysterious Chinese medicine practitioner has been ordered to dismantle a rocky mountain villa built on top of a 26-storey block of apartments in Beijing.

Neighbours say Prof. Zhang Biqing began to illegally build the huge rock dwelling six years ago and they live in fear that the weight will cause the building to collapse. **METRO**

Costly

$3.5M

At 27,349 yuan ($4,468 US) per square metre for property in the Chinese capital, and 800 square metres (8,600 square feet) of rocky terrain, Zhang's luxury rooftop pad could be worth more than $3.5 million US.

The faux mountain home is covered by fake rockeries, real trees and bushes, and is located in one of the city's more upmarket areas.

Unlicensed add-ons and alterations to homes is a common practice among China's wealthiest.

15-day deadline for demolition

The suites beneath Zhang's already suffer from cracks and leaking roofs. One neighbour had complained to the local urban management office, but Zhang allegedly hired thugs to beat him up and he then moved away. Following media exposure, the local urban management office has now ordered Zhang to dismantle the property within 15 days or it will be torn down. **METRO**

Quoted

"Since I dare to live here, I am not worried about complaints. Famous people come to my place and sing. How can you stop them? I used to worry that the house might be too much but I never expected this much attention."
Zhang told Beijing Morning News

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Are you suffering from the affliction of having way too much available data on your phone plan? Nip that problem in the bud with these recent online multiplayer gems. Besides, it's more fun to play together.

Ultima Forever

What's being billed as the App Store's largest free-to-play RPG has been a blast in the days since it launched. There's no cross-platform play, sadly, but the developers are promising it. (iOS/Free)

Finest Hour

This turn-based, First World War-era tank warfare with a board-game feel has been my favourite release for quite a while. Manage your fleet of armoured war machines, with special care to positioning that exploits the weaknesses of your opponents' tanks while defending against the vulnerabilities of your own. Easily worth the cost. (iOS/$0.99)

Disc Drivin'

OK, so there's nothing new about Disc Drivin', but I've recently rediscovered it buried among my app folders. A turn-based racing game where the vehicle of choice is a weighted disc you flick around a tricky track. (iOS/$1.99)

Letters

RE: Ontario to examine pesticides as possible cause of bee deaths, published July 9

It was good to see a couple of articles back in July on the problems honeybees are having. Keep up the good work. I think the public needs to be made aware of how the honeybee has become an essential part of modern agriculture. Without it, the large crops of fruits, vegetables, nuts and even cotton wouldn't be pollinated.

The U.S. lost so many honeybee colonies that every year the country imports honeybees from Australia in order to satisfy the demand from farmers.

Can you imagine having to hand pollinate the flowers on a pear tree in order to get a pear to grow? Can you imagine the cost of the fruit? Well it is already happening. There is a province in China that no longer has honeybees due to the use of pesticides and the pear trees have to be hand pollinated.

A few months ago the EU banned neonicotinoids for a couple of years. Hopefully this will help to slow or reverse the trend of the declining honeybee populations.

When a bug eats a leaf, it dies. When a honeybee takes pollen and nectar to its hive, it feeds this poison to the brood as well as the adult bees.

Derrick To, Vancouver

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

metro

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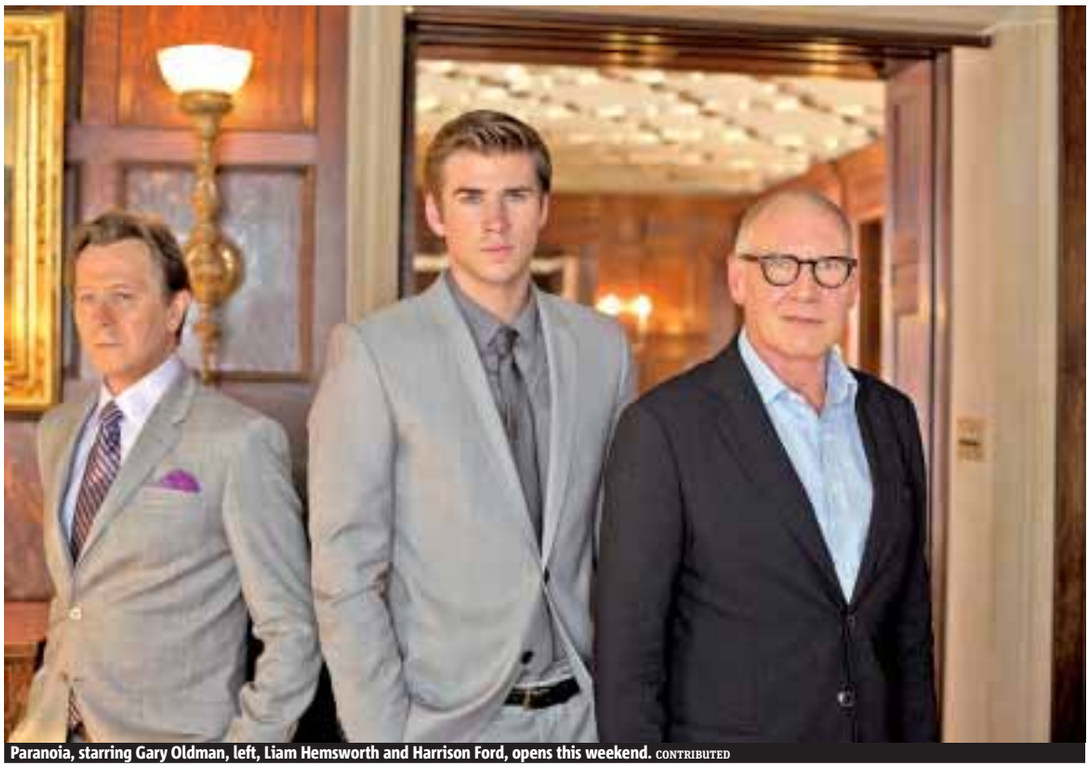
You're not paranoid — movies on espionage are good business

I spy. Opening this weekend, Paranoia won't be the last in a long list of movies about double crossing businesses

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca



Paranoia, starring Gary Oldman, left, Liam Hemsworth and Harrison Ford, opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

The word espionage is most commonly used in relation to spy stories. It conjures up images of James Bond, exotic locations and wild action scenes. But in many movies espionage has little to do with shaken not stirred martinis and Bond girls, and more to do with corporate secrets and intrigue.

This weekend, Paranoia explores the world of big business espionage as Adam Cassidy (Liam Hemsworth) finds himself doing dangerous double duty in the billion dollar world of high tech.

As an entry level employee, his boss Nicholas Wyatt (Gary Oldman) promises him a corner office, among other things, if he will spy on rival tech giant Jock Goddard (Harrison Ford).

That movie is set in the world of bits and bytes but corporate espionage comes in as many styles as that ergonomically designed chair in the CEO's office.

As the title would suggest, the movie Duplicity is ripe with lies and underhanded dealings. Julia Roberts and Clive Owen are former government spies now working in the private sector. Despite being intimately involved, they work for rival shampoo companies. It's a romantic comedy about undercover activities. Imagine if Rock Hudson and Doris Day had starred in Mission Impossible and you get the idea.

Genetics is the currency in New Rose Hotel, a 1999 Christopher Walken and Willem Dafoe film based on a short story by William Gibson. They play corporate moles hired to influence a Japanese bio-engineering expert to defect from one corporation to another. To seduce Dr. Hiroshi (Yoshitaka Amano) they hire a prostitute (Asia Argento) to win his affections. The plan doesn't work, and neither does the movie, really, but it's worth a look for the flamboyant performances from Walken and Dafoe.

Finally, back in the world of high tech espionage, the Ben Affleck thriller Paycheck is a good little movie released at the wrong time. Wedged between Gigli and Jersey Girl, it came out at the height of Bennifer and the nadir of audience interest in Affleck as an actor.

Based on a Philip K Dick short story, Affleck plays Jennings, a genius programmer hired by corporations to reverse engineer new products, recreating them anew. His work is so secretive that after he's done, his memory is wiped clean. The chicanery really begins when his employer (Aaron Eckhart) pulls a double cross, leaving Jennings with no money, no memory and a world of trouble.

Why there won't be an Elysium sequel

Neill Blomkamp's science fiction action dystopia Elysium topped the box office its opening weekend, pulling in an estimated international gross of $41.3 million.

Not too shabby, but success doesn't mean there will be a sequel — at least if Blomkamp has anything to say about it. The writer-director, who dodged pressure to make a sequel to District 9 and instead has followed it up with Elysium and his next film, the original Chappie, is something of a sequel-phobe.

"One of my favourite parts of filmmaking is just conceptualizing ideas," he says. "Executing them is very different to conceptualizing them. I tend to come up with a lot of ideas and I get attached to a lot of them. It creates a different mindset where it's like, 'I want to see this get executed and I want to see that get executed' as opposed to, 'I want to return back to this world from this film.' I have a few other ideas for films I want to make currently."

For movie-goers who have already seen Elysium, the idea that there won't be a sequel is hardly a surprise. And that was what made it so appealing to star Matt Damon.

"I love what it says to the industry. There's not going to be a sequel to this movie. Just deal with it. I love that message," Damon says. "As a movie-goer it's hard not to be cynical when you see every movie trying to set up a sequel. Hopefully it will be refreshing and people will go, 'Oh, that's cool.'"

NED EHRBAR MWN

Neill Blomkamp and Matt Damon are perfectly alright with there not being an Elysium sequel. CONTRIBUTED

Oprah Winfrey. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Winfrey apologizes over Swiss bag dust-up

Oprah Winfrey really wishes everyone hadn't made such a big deal about her not being able to buy a handbag in Switzerland because the store clerk assumed she couldn't afford it.

"I think the incident in Switzerland was just an incident in Switzerland," Winfrey says, according to the BBC.

"I'm really sorry that it got blown up. I purposefully did not mention the name of the store. I'm sorry that I said it was Switzerland. It's not an indictment against the country, or even that store. It's just one person who didn't want to offer me the opportunity to see the bag."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Miley Cyrus knows she is white, m'kay?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Miley Cyrus, who is white, teamed up with French Montana, who is Moroccan, for a remix of his hit song Ain't Worried 'Bout Nothin'.

A portion of the collaboration, which was shot on an iPhone video, was put out onto the Interwebs on Monday. In the grainy video, Cyrus raps about "having thick chicks" and "stuntin' during Fashion Week."

In response to the clip, comments poured in — many of which were not so nice and seemed quite racially motivated — to which Cyrus replied via Twitter, "i know what color my skin is. you can stop with the friendly reminders b—."

It's been very interesting to watch the singer, who brought twerking into the mainstream, shed her Disney background and play her career and artistic self the way she wants to play it — no genres, no boundaries, no rules. Good for you, Miley.

Jennifer Garner

Garner wants to be known as more than a wife

Jennifer Garner makes it a point to attend some Hollywood events without husband Ben Affleck specifically so she'll be known as more than just his wife, she tells Allure magazine.

"It's a very conscious decision. Sometimes it's a pain because my heels are so high and it would be nice to have his arm. And he's such a great date," she says.

"But it can be too much. I think, especially for women, they can really lose their identity and just become 'wife of.'"

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Life can be one heck of a ride, especially on these coasters

Amusement. Summer may be winding down, but there's still plenty of time to get your heart racing with these rides

JULIE KAYZERMAN
Metro World News in New York City

Pete Trabucco has a pretty thrilling job if you ask us — he's an amusement park expert. Yes, that's an actual job. Jealous? The author of America's Top Roller Coasters and Amusement Parks gave us the 411 on the best roller coasters in the United States for you to see this summer.

Hottest new coaster

Gatekeeper Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio cedarpoint.com

Trabucco calls Cedar Point the "Mecca for all roller coaster enthusiasts." Gatekeeper is "one of the most anticipated rides that's coming out of that location," he says. "It's an absolutely amazing wing coaster in which you are actually suspended on the other side of this entire track," he says. "You are just flying with nothing but just air."

Cedar Point has 16 coasters, including Gatekeeper. It is also the only amusement park to have four coasters taller than 200 feet, including Top Thrill Dragster, the second tallest roller coaster in the world.

There is still plenty of coaster-weather left this year. ISTOCK IMAGES

Tallest thriller

Kingda Ka Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, N.J.. sixflags.com/greatadventure

Going from zero to 128 m.p.h. in about four seconds, this steel accelerator reaches 456 feet before it drops 418 feet at a 90-degree angle.

Best wooden coaster

El Toro Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, N.J.

This ride became the first wooden coaster to use a cable lift instead of a chain lift, allowing for a much faster and steeper ride. El Toro has one of the steepest wooden-coaster drops and was voted the 2013 No. 1 wooden coaster by Amusement Today.

Best Florida coaster

Dragon Challenge Harry Potter World, Universal Park, Orlando, Fla. universalorlando.com/harrypotter

"The Dragon Challenge is basically two coasters that actually come tip to tip," says Trabucco. "When you're on the ride you actually almost touch toes as you loop the loop simultaneously."

Best kiddie coasters

"Any park that you go to, you're going to find at least one or two kid rides that are really well worth going on," Trabucco says. "If you're an adult and you're like me, you're not going to fit, but you hold your breath." Trabucco recommends:

- **Sesame Place Langhorne, Pa.** sesameplace.com
- **Walt Disney World Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.** disneyworld.disney.go.com
- **Runaway Mine Train Six Flags Great Adven- ture, Jackson, N.J.** sixflags.com/greatadventure

World's largest

Safari expansion nets Six Flags' new title

Move over Disney. Six Flags Great Adventure is now the world's largest park thanks to its newest expansion ride, Safari Off Road Adventure.

The Jackson, N.J., theme park reimagined its 38-year-old Wild Safari park during the off-season, outfitting the 350-acre, 1,200-animal preserve with 18 open-air safari vehicles customized from surplus army trucks.

"It's a worthwhile, interesting attraction," says Paul Ruben, industry expert and North American editor of Park World magazine.

By merging the Safari reserve with the existing Great Adventure property, the park is now 510 acres — surpassing Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom (500 acres) as the world's largest theme park.

CHRIS LONGO

Tragedy on vacation: how to deal

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

When tragedy strikes during a vacation, it can be especially jarring. Not only are you dealing with a horrible situation, but you are in unfamiliar surroundings with no loved ones around to comfort or assist.

It is important to understand that the help you will receive from the Canadian government's consular services may be limited. If someone dies while travelling abroad, they will not pay for the burial, cremation or repatriation costs of a deceased Canadian, although they can provide advice and contact relatives. The related expenses are your responsibility. However, the Department of Justice Canada may sometimes provide financial assistance to Canadians who are victims of violent crimes abroad through its Victims Fund.

You are also responsible to register the death according to local regulations and get a local death certificate. However a call to a qualified funeral home in both Canada and the country where the death occurred will save you a lot of paperwork. Both must be involved in returning the remains home.

Most airlines have stopped offering bereavement fares but they are still available for some international routes. You will often get a better deal by booking the lowest and most restricted fare available. Urns may be considered carry-on baggage and caskets are considered cargo.

If you end up in custody because you have broken or are accused of breaking the laws of another country, you are subject to their judicial system. Consular services can provide you with a list of local lawyers, but won't intervene in private legal matters, provide legal advice, post bail or get you out of prison.

As far as getting financial assistance with some of these unexpected tragedies, always check your travel insurance and credit card policy to see what kind of coverage is included. Some policies may cover the preparation and repatriation of remains or they may simply cover cremation or local burial. Also, be clear on whether you have to pay upfront and be reimbursed with receipts or if you must contact your provider first to have them handle certain arrangements. Finally, always leave copies of insurance documents, passports, credit cards and photo IDs at home with loved ones. It will make it easier for them to assist you.

The Canadian consular services can often provide help and advice. ISTOCK

A crepe isn't a crepe without a plum

These crepes are delicious for breakfast, brunch or dessert. The plums are cooked with star anise until just soft and complemented by the cardamom in the whipped cream.

Ingredients

- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 500 ml (2 cups) milk
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) melted butter, plus extra for cooking crepes
- 250 ml (1 cup) all-purpose flour
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt

Plums

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vegetable oil
- 6 blue plums, pitted and quartered
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) granulated sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) semi-dry white wine (such as Riesling)
- 8 whole star anise pods
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon

Whipped Cream

- 250 ml (1 cup) whipping cream (35 per cent)
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) liquid honey
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cardamom

1. In a large bowl, whisk eggs, milk, 50 ml (1/4 cup) melted butter, flour and salt until no lumps remain. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours before making crepes.

2. Plums: In a large heavy-bottomed skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Brown cut side of plums for about 2 minutes per side; sprinkle with sugar. Add wine, star anise pods and lemon zest to skillet and bring to a boil; reduce heat to medium. Cook until plums are soft, about 4 minutes. With a slotted spoon, remove plums to a heatproof bowl.

3. Bring syrup to boil; boil until reduced by half, 5 to 6 minutes. Add lemon juice to taste; pour over plums. Cover and let cool to room temperature.

4. Crepes: Heat a 20-cm (8-inch) non-stick skillet over medium heat. Brush pan with melted butter. Pour 75 ml (1/3 cup) batter into centre of pan, tilting pan to cover bottom thinly. Return to heat for about 1 minute or until bottom is lightly browned. Using a spatula, flip crepe over and brown other side. Remove to a plate. Repeat with remaining batter, buttering pan if needed. (Refrigerate crepes if not using immediately.)

5. Whipped Cream: Using an electric mixer, whip cream on medium until thickened slightly. Slowly add honey and cardamom, whipping until stiff peaks form, about 2 minutes. Keep refrigerated until ready to use.

6. Remove star anise pods from plums. Place crepes on cutting board. Divide plum mixture among 8 crepes, spooning mixture onto one half. Fold crepes over. Carefully transfer to serving plates; garnish with whipped cream and a star anise pod. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CHEF TAFIK SHEHATA FOR FOODLAND ONTARIO

Plum Crepes With Cardamom and Honey Whipped Cream

This recipe serves eight. COURTESY THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drink of the Week

Breakfast of Champs

Kick off any hot summer day with this refreshing punch. It's simple and delicious, with lemon juice, simple syrup and soda water.

- 8.5 oz Belvedere Vodka
- 4 oz lemon juice
- 3 oz simple syrup
- 16 oz soda water

Add all ingredients into a glass jug. Garnish with lemon slices and mint.
COURTESY BELVEDERE VODKA

Brunch. Gluten-Free Breakfast Sandwich

1. Place ham slice or back bacon or sausage rounds on bottom of toasted, buttered bun.

2. Add egg and cheese and cover with toasted bun top. NEWS CANADA/ PILLERS.COM/SIMPLY-FREE

Ingredients

- 1 slice (26 g) Piller's Simply Free Smoked Breakfast Ham, cut in half, or Piller's Simply Free Cornmeal Back Bacon or Breakfast Sausage Rounds
- 5 ml (1 tsp) butter
- 1 rice bun, toasted
- 1 fried egg
- 1 slice cheese, of your choice

Pillowy goodness of pancakes

1. Compote: In a medium saucepan on low heat, cook berries with sugar for 30 minutes. Let cool and set aside.

2. Pancakes: Into a bowl, sift all dry ingredients and combine. Add eggs and mix in milk and buttermilk. The batter should be thick but not too thick (if additional liquid is required, add a little water). Set aside and let rest for 1 hour.

3. In a frying pan or flat grill, heat a small amount of oil. When hot, spoon pancake batter onto hot surface. Cook until pancakes start to bubble on top and are slightly dry around edges, about 2 minutes. Flip over and cook until golden, about 1 minute.

4. Repeat until all batter has been used, keeping pancakes warm until ready to serve. Drizzle berry compote. THE CANADIAN PRESS/EAT PRAY LOVE: REGIONALLY INSPIRED CUISINE BY ROCKY MOUNTAINEER, WITH RECIPES CREATED BY CHEFS JEAN PIERRE GUERIN AND FREDERIC COUTON

This recipe serves four. COURTESY THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients

Compote

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) blueberries
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) blackberries
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) strawberries
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) white sugar

Pancakes

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) whole-wheat flour
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) all-purpose flour
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) white sugar
- 10 ml (2 tsp) baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking soda
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
- 2 eggs
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) milk
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) buttermilk
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) canola oil, for cooking

Going up to bat in a casual chat

The on-the-spot interview. A recruitment can occur at any time. Be ready!

ROSIE HALES
TalentEgg.ca

Your job hunt is all about preparation. Careful research, polished cover letters and resumés and a clear plan for the future are all key to your success.

Don't overlook a crucial component of the job hunt that could be essential to snagging your dream job: the on-the-spot interview.

If you're networking or attending an info session, you may find yourself in a casual conversation that suddenly turns the heat up when a big name figure or recruiter starts asking you the tough questions.

Presenting yourself in just a few minutes might seem nerve-wracking, but these tips will help you ace an on-the-spot interview.

Get excited

First impressions matter a great deal. If you seem like you're dreading an interview-style conversation, that's going to affect your responses and how they're received.

When presented with the opportunity to take part in an on-the-spot interview, imagine it as getting one step closer to a job.

Yes, it's a challenge, but that doesn't mean you have to treat it like a hurdle.

You should be seeking out these opportunities, not fearing that one might find you.

Tip: "That sounds great, I'd appreciate that opportunity," makes a much stronger impression than, "Oh! OK…"

Dress the part

Believe it or not, one of the key steps to success in an on-the-spot interview takes place before you even get in the room.

If you're visiting an event on the spur of the moment and are tempted to show up in street wear, think again. Wearing appropriate attire helps communicate that you're taking the event seriously, and indicates to a prospective employer that you understand the importance of following a dress code.

Close your conversation with a handshake and a wrap-up statement that indicates you appreciated the opportunity to talk. Suggest following-up on your conversation and exchange contact information as appropriate. ISTOCK

A good rule of thumb is to dress as if you were attending a formal interview on-site at a company, or a little more formal than their daily dress code.

Err on the side of conservative dress, but try to include a unique detail that reflects your personality.

Tip: If it's impossible for you to get into your preferred networking outfit, be sure to at least wear something more dressy than you'd wear on an average day. No knapsacks!

Your thoughts?

TalentEgg: #Questionofthe-Day: How do you prepare for an interview? Share your tips to help out other interviewees!

- @aadamzaidi: #QuestionoftheDay To boost confidence, I tell myself that it would be their loss to not hire me and back it up with my skills.
- @HanleyShaun: #QuestionoftheDay Research the company, find out everything I can, good and bad, so I have questions and can interview them.

Brainstorm better answers

Before you attend a recruitment event or info session, challenge yourself with commonly-asked interview questions. For example:

- Why do you want to work at our company?
- What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
- What are you looking for in a career?

You may think you've got these questions covered, particularly if you think well on your feet. However, providing a memorable answer isn't just about saying relevant things. These questions are generic, and even great answers that are all about you will sound generic as well. Don't just talk about yourself.

Use your answers to show active engagement with the structure and workplace culture of your potential employer.

Tip: This is a good opportunity to identify and prioritize what you're looking for in an employer. The results may surprise you!

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The dos and don'ts of dealing with a d'oh!

Mending your first mistake. Turn that blunder into an opportunity to impress your business buds

MEGHAN GREAVES
TalentEgg.ca

Mistakes happen, especially when first hatching your career. There's a lot to learn, a new workplace "style" to adhere to, and a ton of eggciting but sometimes challenging scenarios. It doesn't help that being a new hire can be nerve-wracking as well.

The good news is that it's more than likely that your employer will be understanding of your first "whoops" if you handle it properly. This is easy if you're equipped with the right skills. We did some research on how to overcome your first mistake at work and asked around to get more ideas.

Take responsibility

You've acknowledged that a mistake has been made, developed a solution and brought the situation to your manager. Now it's time to apologize.

- Your apology doesn't have to be an overwrought speech, but it should be genuine.
- Apologizing shows your employer right off the bat that you are being professional about the situation and gives him or her the confidence to believe that you will make it right.

Acknowledge that you've made a mistake

You've accidentally replied to everyone in a sensitive email, sent the wrong message or double-booked your boss.

The first thing to do is acknowledge the mistake. Don't sweep it under the rug for someone else to find. Owning up prevents the mistake from snowballing into a serious problem.

This is also the perfect time to take any responsible steps to reverse the mistake, if possible.

Advise your manager

The best thing to do after realizing that you have made a mistake and taking the proper steps to come up with a solution is to advise your manager.

This may be a scary thing, but telling your manager about a mistake is a lot less scary than being asked about it.

While no one likes mistakes, you need to believe that your manager will understand and appreciate your honesty.

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Tennis

Raonic, Pospisil continue hot streak

Fresh off their inspired performances at the Rogers Cup, Canadians Milos Raonic and Vasek Pospisil are into the second round of the Western & Southern Open.

Raonic, who dropped Sunday's final in Montreal to Rafael Nadal, defeated Jack Sock 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 on Tuesday night to advance.

Pospisil advanced when France's Gilles Simon retired with an injury.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Red Sox outlast Blue Jays in 11th

Shane Victorino hit a two-run single to put Boston ahead in the 11th inning Tuesday as the Red Sox went on to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-2.

Victorino's two-out single off Blue Jays reliever Aaron Loup (4-5) scored Jarrod Saltalamacchia and Jacoby Ellsbury, helping the Red Sox (72-49) pad their lead atop the American League East.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Former league MVP on waivers

The Minnesota Twins have placed Canadian first baseman Justin Morneau on revocable waivers.

If Morneau is claimed before Wednesday's deadline, the Twins can work out a trade with the claiming team to let that team take his contract or pull him back and keep him in Minnesota.

Morneau, a native of New Westminster, B.C., has been a cornerstone of the team for a decade. The former AL most valuable player is in the final year of his contract.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brianne Theisen Eaton competes in the javelin throw in the heptathlon at the World Athletics Championships in Moscow on Tuesday. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newlywed ups her game to win silver

Track and field. Theisen Eaton captures her first world championship medal to complement her husband's gold

The Eatons finished their working honeymoon in Russia on Tuesday, ever so close to making it a double-gold celebration at the world track and field championships.

Brianne Theisen Eaton, of Humboldt, failed to sufficiently shake off Ganna Melnichenko in the final 800-metre race of the heptathlon and finished with a silver medal two days after her husband, Ashton Eaton of the U.S., won gold in the decathlon.

After two days of competition, Theisen Eaton no longer had the legs to create a decisive gap ahead of Melnichenko. And while the Ukrainian went celebrating wrapped in her national flag, Theisen Eaton wrapped herself in the warmest of embraces of her smiling husband.

Barely a month after marriage, they proved it was a near-perfect competitive match as she gained her first global medal.

"I watched Ashton the last couple of years winning all his medals and could only sit back and imagine what that felt like," said Theisen Eaton.

"Ashton and I talked about both being on the podium here, it was definitely our plan. We'll probably just go home now, sit on the couch for a few days watching television and eating crappy food."

A real honeymoon could also be on the agenda.

"We're contemplating on the honeymoon," Theisen Eaton said. "Now would be the perfect time to go lay on the beach."

Melnichenko won her first major competition with 6,586 points, compared to 6,530 for Theisen Eaton, who became the third Canadian woman to win a world championship medal. Hurdlers Priscilla Lopes-Schliep (silver in 2009) and Perdita Felicien (gold in 2003 and silver 2007) are the others. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Making history

The medal was Canada's second in Moscow after London's Damian Warner won bronze in the decathlon.

- It's the first time Canadian athletes have ever won medals in male and female combined events at the same world championship.

Damian Warner GETTY IMAGES

Dead hockey player remembered as 'gentle large boy'

A junior hockey player who died suddenly at a training camp this week was a large but gentle boy who had recently started to show academic promise, his former principal said on Tuesday.

Paul Kitchen, head of school at Rothesay Netherwood in New Brunswick, said staff and students have been hit hard by the death of Jordan Boyd.

The 16-year-old died on Monday after collapsing during a skating drill at tryouts for the Acadie-Bathurst Titan of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

Kitchen said the 270-student private school in Rothesay is reaching out to offer support to Boyd's parents, who had been thrilled by their son's academic progress.

"Jordan is a fine, fine young man who worked hard at his academics, who worked hard at his relationship with others," Kitchen said in an interview.

"He was ... this gentle, gentle large boy with this smile on his face."

The league said a physical therapist provided CPR after Boyd fell on the ice, lost consciousness and stopped breathing at a rink in Bathurst, N.B. Results from an autopsy are expected this week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

DRIVE

Curious about plutonium's potential

Autopilot. With the success of The Curiosity on Mars should we now look at nuclear power as a viable car fuel source?

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Earlier this month, NASA's latest robotic rover, Curiosity, celebrated its first anniversary of roaming around the planet Mars. So far it's been a great road trip.

No tickets. Lots of fun photo opportunities. Lots of great rocks to pulverize with its lasers. Only one temporary breakdown.

For sure, the technology on this thing is just out of this world. Consider the six wheels, each with an independent drive motor, the instruments that can analyze rock formations, before and after the lasers zap them into a state of plasma, and the powerful jackhammer located at the end of its six-foot robotic arm.

But the technology that really gets me going is its power source, otherwise known as the Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (MMRTG). Basically it's a nuclear thing, using non-weapon grade plutonium known as Plutonium 238. The heat given off by plutonium's alpha rays can be used to keep things warm, and can be converted into lots and lots of electricity. The other two Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, run on solar energy, but NASA felt nuclear was the better option for Curiosity's rock-analyzing mission, which called for power-hungry tools, and lots of travelling in winter (dark and cold) and through dusty territory (dust on solar panels). NASA also uses an MMRTG for fuelling the probe currently on its way to Pluto.

Look, I'm no nuclear scientist, couldn't even play one on regional cable TV programming, but I'm pretty sure Curiosity is the only "vehicle" ever successfully fuelled by plutonium. Sure there are lots of nuclear-powered submarines and air craft carriers out there, and there's always the time-travelling DeLorean in Back to the Future, but after that the pickings get smaller than atom particles.

I don't believe Curiosity's "Check Engine" light came on once. Should we reconsider atomic cars, now that Curiosity has been so successful and reliable?

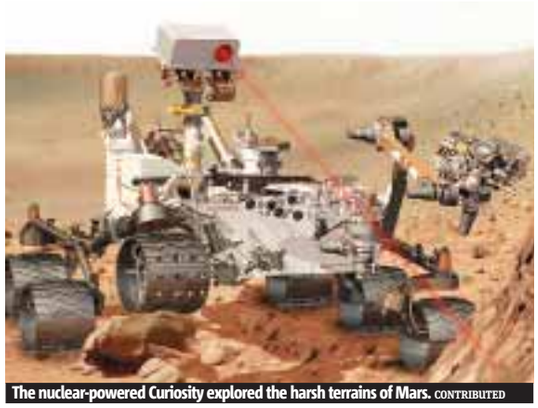
Well, to keep the discussion going, here's a short list of the pros and cons of powering future vehicles with plutonium-based thermoelectric generators:

Let's go plutonium!

- Best name ever for a vehicle fuel.
- No more fill-ups. Plutonium 238 has a half-life of 87.7 years, and should outlast your Subaru no problem.
- Comes in a lovely shade of glowing apricot.

Let's not go plutonium!

- Drivers and passengers need to wear heavy and uncomfortable anti-radiation armour.
- It's pricey and rare. NASA's looking for $30 million to restart Plutonium 238 production, to top up dwindling supplies. NASA hopes to make three pounds per year.
- Could lead to more car thefts, as plutonium is fanatically and historically coveted by nefarious international villain types.
- Auto technicians at Canadian Tire will require additional training.



The nuclear-powered Curiosity explored the harsh terrains of Mars. CONTRIBUTED

The 1958 Ford Nucleon. PHOTO: FORD MOTOR COMPANY

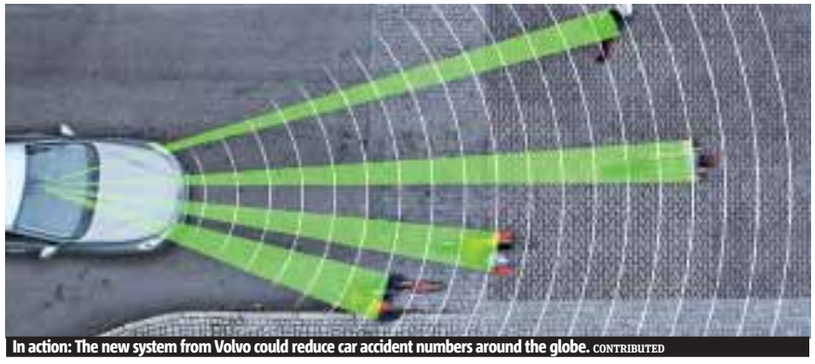
Watching for cyclists? Your car can too

Driving force. The clever radar system Pedestrian and Cyclist Detection is a godsend that will save lives

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Details

- **Launch.** Volvo launched its vehicle detection system in 2006, and added pedestrian detection, a more complex system, in 2010.
- **Stats.** According to CAA, some 7,500 cyclists are seriously injured in crashes each year in Canada, most of them during the afternoon rush hour.
- **Deadly locations.** The majority of cyclist deaths occur at intersections with lights or other traffic controls.



In action: The new system from Volvo could reduce car accident numbers around the globe. CONTRIBUTED

In a collision between a car and a bicycle, the car is going to win every time. While several automakers have emergency braking or cruise control systems that can recognize other vehicles ahead, some can also identify cyclists, including the system from Volvo.

The system, called Pedestrian and Cyclist Detection with full auto brake, is able to identify the unique shape of someone on a bicycle ahead of the car. "It's a camera and radar-based system," says Martin Magnusson, senior engineer and function developer for Volvo Cars in Sweden. "It uses a camera to detect the bicycle and cyclist, and then it uses radar to confirm the detection. It will look for the characteristics of a human being, the head, arms and legs, and then it also detects that there is a bicycle." The system uses Volvo's Auto Brake, which will automatically apply the vehicle's brakes if it detects an imminent collision, and the driver ignores a warning and doesn't hit the brakes. At lower speeds, it can stop the car before it hits something.

At higher speeds, the car might not have enough time to stop completely, but the impact speed will be reduced. The chance of serious injury or death skyrockets as speed increases. It's estimated that a pedestrian hit by a car going 32 km/h has a five per cent chance of being killed, but if the car is going 64 km/h, the risk of fatality increases to 85 per cent.

"The system constantly monitors the traffic situation and does what we call select assessment," Magnusson says. "It's a threat evaluation, (to see if) it's a dangerous situation or not. When there is a high risk of a collision with a bicycle, the system will warn with a red flashing light in the windshield and a warning sound. If the driver doesn't react, the system will automatically brake the vehicle."

Developing the system wasn't easy, since it has to be able to detect cyclists no matter what they are wearing, and in rain or bright sunshine. The system can also pick out motorcycles. At the moment, it can only detect cyclists that are riding in front of the car in the same direction, but engineers are working on identifying cyclists that ride across the car's path. In future, the system may also be able to identify and stop for large animals. "We are constantly looking at new scenarios where people can be injured or killed, and we can work to add them," Magnusson says. According to CAA, some 7,500 cyclists are seriously injured in crashes each year in Canada, most of them during the afternoon rush hour.

The majority of cyclist deaths occur at intersections with lights or other traffic controls.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may have big plans and big expectations but keep a sense of perspective. If you let your enthusiasm race too far ahead, you may make a mistake that slows you right down again. Get the balance right.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You have what it takes to succeed but there is a touch of doubt in your mind that keeps you from giving your all. What happens today will remind you that doubt can be overcome.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You are finding it hard to believe in yourself but it doesn't matter. What counts is that others believe in you, and they do. Take it easy today. You have nothing to prove.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Someone you meet socially will praise you to the skies and tell you what a fine human being you are but your intuition warns they are not to be trusted. It's a trick to lull you into a false sense of security.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
What you are worrying about is of no importance. Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart may make it seem as if the world is against you but it's not true.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone in a position of power will try to force you to do something you don't agree with today but they won't succeed. Stand your ground and refuse to do anything that does not meet your standards.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's good to be reminded of your limits and what happens over the next 24 hours will stop you in your tracks and balance out a mistake of some kind. Next time, don't go over the top so quickly.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Let your rivals and enemies have the last word today. The yapping they do has very little effect, so why waste your time reacting to it? Save your energy and put it to better use.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is nothing wrong with your plans but some people will find fault with them. Ignore the critics and carry on as you are. That will annoy them far more than if you get involved in a war of words.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Someone you have to deal with today won't be in the best of moods but don't let their negativity rub off on you. When they see that their doom and gloom act is having no effect they will give up on it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
According to the planets what other people tell you is "the truth" and what is really the truth are two different things. Take everything you are told today, especially by "experts", with a large pinch of salt.

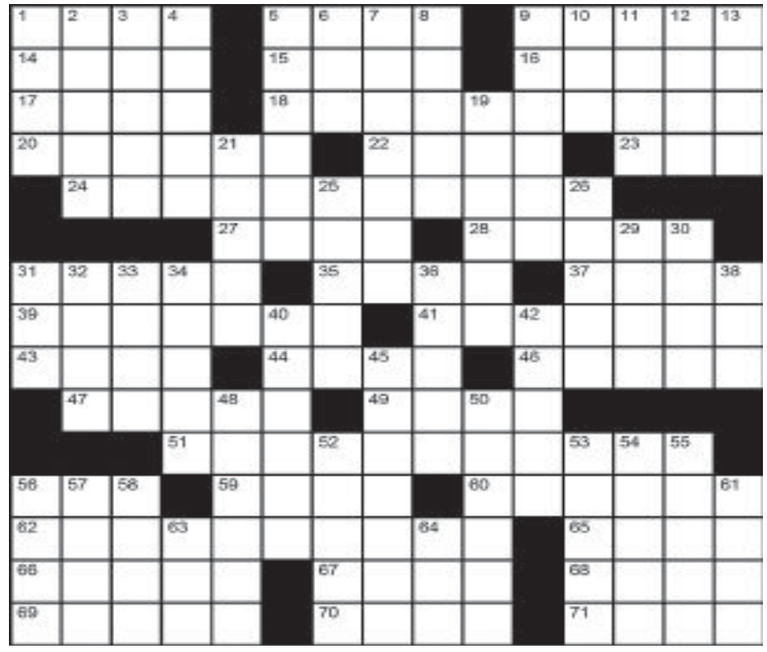
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Try not to say anything that might be taken the wrong way by people who have the power to make life tough for you.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

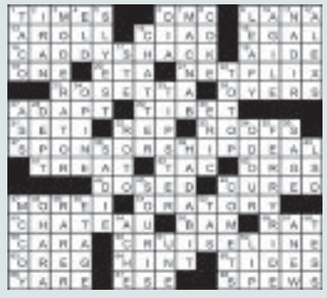
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. "Best Song __" by One Direction
5. Cosmetic surgery procedure, commonly
9. Flavour
14. Cleave
15. "Walk Like _ __" by The Four Seasons
16. Extreme
17. E-Mail junk
18. Montreal's Expo 67, for one: 2 wds.
20. Boredom
22. Nautical ropes
23. Driver's li'l navigation aid
24. Like #48-Down's roof
27. Chew at
28. Lone Star State resident
31. Dishonour
35. Michael Jackson's second wife, Debbie __
37. Particular plant
39. Guernica artist
41. Skirt feature
43. Mr. Anthopoulos, Toronto Blue Jays GM
44. Village People hit
46. Furry mammal that can swim
47. Baseball base
49. Rock group's blasters
51. Chute __ (Very high waterfall in Quebec)
56. Sibling to sis'
59. Equipment
60. Refuge
62. Video game series: 2 wds.
65. Create
66. Helicopter part
67. Biblical birthright trader
68. Some athletes, e.g.
69. MuchMusic trophies, commonly
70. Quebec singer Mr. Simard
71. Feathered farm females

Down
1. Once, poetically
2. Venomous snake
3. Sidestep
4. Send payment
5. Sheriff, for one
6. Texting point-of-view
7. Movie sequel installment: 2 wds.
8. Songbook standard: "It's ___ Paper Moon"
9. Skirmish
10. The planet Melmac alien
11. Male deer
12. Stumble
13. Sense organs in Sumatra in Indonesia)
19. Creditor, informally
21. Recommends strongly
25. Ricochet shot in billiards
26. Glorify
29. Dismounted
30. __ the wiser
31. Sauna site
32. To the __ (Fully)
33. Banda __ (City
34. Men's magazine; or, saying
36. Classic toys company, __-_
38. Always, in verse
40. Locale on Cape Breton Island
42. Ten Commandments receiver
45. Alberta city southeast of Edmonton
48. Toronto Blue Jays home, __ Centre
50. Czech Republic capital
52. Giver's opposite
53. Mythical maiden
54. Ireland's County __
55. __ Gold (Type of potato)
56. Apartment listing abbr.
57. Leeway
58. According to a-ha, where the sun always shines: 2 wds.
61. Predicament
63. Tree in Hawaii
64. Grandma

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

1								4
	5	4				2	7	
			8	4	2			
		6	5	9	7	8		
5	7						6	3
		9	6	1	3	7		
			3	2	9			
	2	3				1	5	
9								2

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	9	3	1	6	8	2	7	5
8	7	6	2	9	5	4	1	3
2	1	5	4	7	3	6	8	9
3	8	2	5	4	9	1	6	7
1	6	7	8	3	2	5	9	4
9	5	4	6	1	7	8	3	2
6	4	8	7	2	1	3	5	8
7	2	8	3	5	6	9	4	1
5	3	1	9	8	4	7	2	6

Today
28°/14°
Mainly sunny

Thursday
29°/17°
Mainly sunny

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.

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Sarah M. and her uncle **Tony R.**
Ford Employee Ford Retiree

Bill H. and his son **Greg H.**
Ford Retiree Ford Employee

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Platinum model shown

2013 F-150 XLT
SUPER CAB 4X4 5.0L

10.6L/100km 27MPG HWY** | 15.0L/100km 19MPG CITY**

Employee Price Adjustment ///	$4,423
Delivery Allowance ///	$7,250
Total Price Adjustments ///	$11,673

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Titanium model shown

2013 ESCAPE SE
FWD 1.6L ECOBOOST

6.0L/100km 47MPG HWY** | 9.1L/100km 31MPG CITY**

Total Price Adjustments ///	$2,019

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OR LEASE AN ESCAPE SE AWD 2.0L FOR ONLY
$299* @ **0%** APR FOR 36 MONTHS
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Built after December 2012

Titanium model shown

2013 FUSION SE

5.8L/100km 49MPG HWY** | 9.2L/100km 31MPG CITY**

Total Price Adjustments ///	$1,750

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